

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 A-01 AID-05 CCO-00 DHA-02 FBO-02 OC-05 OMB-01

OPR-02 SCA-01 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SY-05 USSS-00 /093 W

----- 086113

R 181341Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3438

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4881

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PIN MZ, MILI

SUBJECT: LOURENCO MARQUES DISTURBANCES

1. FOLLOWING INFO ON SITUATION IN LOURENCO MARQUES PASSED
BY OVERLY WHO LEFT LM AT 0945 FOR MEDICAL CONSULT.

2. DURING AFTERNOON OF DEC 17, SHOOTING WAS HEARD IN
AFRICAN SUBURBS OF LOURENCO MARQUES. EARLY UNCONFIRMED RUMOR
WAS THAT TROUBLE STARTED WHEN BUS DRIVER WAS ATTACKED BY
FREIMO SOLDIER WHEN SOLDIER REFUSED TO PAY FARE.

3. IN AFTERNOON, TROOPS AND POLICE WERE OBSERVED BEING
MOBILIZED AND TRANSPORTED. TROOPS WERE FULLY ARMED WITH
BAYONETS AFFIXED TO RIFLES. LATER IN AFTERNOON BUSINESSES
CLOSED AND WHITE COMMUNITY EVAPORATED.

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4. AT ABOUT 2030 HRS, AUTOMATIC RIFLE FIRE WAS HEARD IN MOST SECTIONS OF CITY. FIRING SEEMED TO BE CONCENTRATED IN CENTRAL AND WESTERN PORTIONS OF CITY. SOME OF THE FIRING WAS DIRECTED INTO THE AIR, AS TRACER BULLETS COULD BE SEEN ARCING ACROSS HARBOR, AND FROM WESTERN SECTION TOWARDS MATOLA INDUSTRIAL AREA. HEAVY FIRING CONTINUED FOR ONE-HALF TO ONE HOUR, SPORADIC FIRING LATER. ELECTRICITY AND RADIO FAILED BRIEFLY, THEN RESTORED. NO MENTION OF ANY OF EVENTS WAS CARRIED ON RADIO.

5. MORNING NOTICIAS REPORTEDLY SAID SITUATION WAS UNDER CONTROL AT 0100 HRS.

6. CENTRAL HOSPITAL SOURCE SAID AFTERNOON FIGHTING CLAIMED SIX FRELIMO TROOPS INJURED. NOTHING ON DEATHS OR LATER CASUALTIES KNOWN.

7. AS SAA FLIGHT TO JOHANNESBURG LEFT LM, PILOT RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM CONTROL TOWER ADVISING "DISTURBANCE IN CITY, PILOT SHOULD HEAD TO SEA." PILOT DID SO AT FIFTY FEET OFF THE WATER, TURNED SOUTH TO PONTE DE OURO, AND DID NOT CLIMB TO FLIGHT ALTITUDE UNTIL OVER SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORY.

8. COMMENT: EARLY REPORTS INDICATED FIGHTING WAS BETWEEN DISSIDENT AND LOYAL FRELIMO SOLDIERS. THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. HOWEVER, ALL EMBASSY PERSONNEL SAFE AS OF 1100 HRS DECEMBER 18.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, MOBILIZATION, PROTECTIVE SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR04881
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750440-0793
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751228/aaaaayaw.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOURENCO MARQUES DISTURBANCES
TAGS: PINS, MILI, SOCI, MZ, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006